



Fair Political Practices Commission

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NEWS RELEASE

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Veteran State Attorney Named FPPC Enforcement Chief

The Fair Political Practices Commission today announced the appointment of state Deputy Attorney General John Appelbaum as chief of the FPPC's Enforcement Division.

Appelbaum, 41, brings a distinguished record of public service to his new post at the FPPC. As a veteran official at the state Office of Attorney General, he has prosecuted major civil cases, supervised other attorneys and amassed extensive hands-on trial experience. He also has been employed in private practice, specializing in litigation and general counsel duties for public agencies including the city of Chula Vista.

Since 1993, Appelbaum has served the state as a Deputy Attorney General and Supervising Deputy Attorney General in the areas of civil rights enforcement, correctional law, and health, education and welfare. He has investigated and prosecuted major civil rights violations, including polling-place accessibility, transportation accessibility and immigration rights cases. He has supervised a major section of the Attorney General's staff, defended the state in complex class action lawsuits, and instituted statewide investigations and settlement negotiations.

Appelbaum will begin his new job at the FPPC on May 23.

"We are delighted to announce that Mr. Appelbaum is leading our Enforcement Division," said FPPC Chair Liane Randolph. "With his strong track record as a litigator and manager, and with his proven ability to prevail in the courtroom and settlement discussions, John will be a tremendous asset to the Commission as it prosecutes violations of the Political Reform Act."

Prior to joining the Office of Attorney General, Appelbaum served in private practice. He was employed as an associate attorney at the San Diego firm of Jennings, Engstrand & Henrikson, where he specialized in litigation and general counsel for public agencies. In private practice, he also served as legal counsel for the city of Chula Vista, counseling the city on complex litigation matters and drafting municipal ordinances, resolutions and advisory opinions.

Appelbaum holds a Bachelor's degree in communications and history from the University of

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Colorado and received his law degree, with honors, from George Washington University. He lives in Roseville with his wife, Marianne, and two children.

The Fair Political Practices Commission was created by the Political Reform Act of 1974, a ballot initiative passed by California voters as Proposition 9. The commission administers, interprets and enforces the law relating to financial conflicts of interest, campaign contributions and expenditures, and lobbying disclosure.

The FPPC's Enforcement Division includes attorneys, investigators, accountants, political reform consultants, analysts and support staff. The Enforcement Division is assigned to investigate alleged violations of the Political Reform Act, and where appropriate, initiate formal administrative or civil enforcement proceedings. The division conducts investigations relating to both state and local matters.

Appelbaum succeeds Steven Russo as head of the Enforcement Division. Russo is returning to his previous position as a Senior Commission Counsel at the FPPC.

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